

Application No. 10/052,951

REMARKS

Claims 41-45 and 47-73 are in the case.

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated July 22, 2003 and have made the changes believed appropriate to place the application in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Claim 65 has been rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. The Examiner's suggestion for amendment has been incorporated in the amended claim listing submitted *supra*. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 65 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 74 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Barnes et al (US Pat. 5,178,739). Claim 1 was cancelled, without prejudice, in Applicants' second preliminary amendment, accompanying the continuation application papers. Claim 74 has also now been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 41 and 45 have been rejected under 35 USC 101 (same invention double patenting) in view of certain claims of Nulman et al (US Pat. 6,368,469). Claims 41-59 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting in view of certain claims of Nulman et al (US Pat. 6,368,469).

Claim 41 has been amended to incorporate limitations of claim 46 and claim 46 has been cancelled without prejudice, in the amended claim listing submitted *supra*. Claim 45 depends from the amended claim 4. In addition, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer with regard to the '469 patent. . It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 41-45 and 47-59 should be withdrawn.

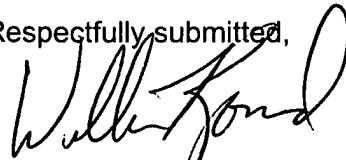
The Examiner has made various comments concerning the obviousness of certain features of the present inventions. Applicants do not concede the correctness of these comments and the Examiner's comments are deemed moot in view of the above response.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication of allowability for claims 60-64 and 66-73. The Examiner has provided various reasons for allowability of these claims. Applicant notes that the claims are directed to various combinations of features. It is respectfully submitted that the patentability of each of the allowed and allowable claims resides in the combination of features recited in that claim in addition to any features noted by the Examiner.

PATENT
001390USAC02
7828.7063

In view of all of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and
reexamination of the amended claim set, and allowance at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

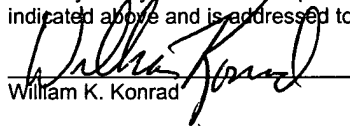

William K. Konrad
Reg. No. 28,858
Customer No. 24033

Date: 11/19/03

Direct All Correspondence to:
Patent Counsel
Applied Materials, Inc.
P.O. Box 450A
Santa Clara, CA 95052

Direct Telephone Calls to:
William K. Konrad
(310) 556-7983

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date
indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


William K. Konrad

(Date)

11/19/03